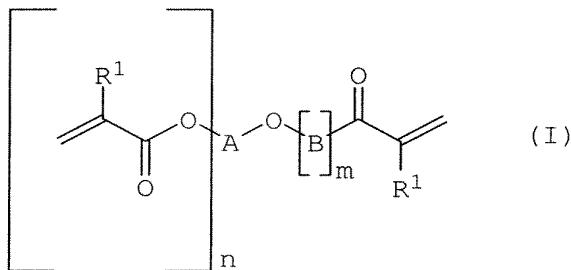


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of a general formula (I)



wherein

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

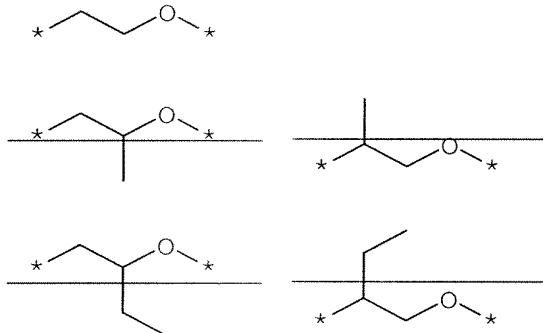
n is an integer from 2 to 5,

m is an integer from 1 to 100,

A is C_3 to C_{20} alk($n+1$)yl or C_3 to C_{20} heteroalk($n+1$)yl, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of

ef



wherein * identifies positions of attachment.

2. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 1 wherein

R¹ is hydrogen or methyl,

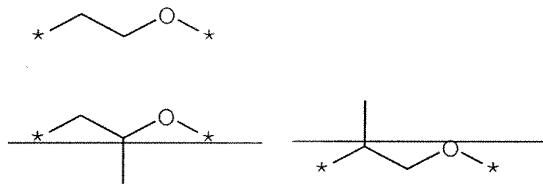
n is 2 or 3,

m is an integer from 2 to 50,

A is C₃ to C₁₀ alk(n+1)yl, and

B represents ~~identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of~~

ef



wherein * identifies the positions of attachment.

3. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 1 wherein

R¹ is hydrogen or methyl,

n is 2,

m is an integer from 3 to 30,

A is C₃ to C₆ alk(n+1)yl, and

B is

wherein * identifies the positions of attachment.

4. (Previously presented) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 1 wherein the polyol is glycerol.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 1 as an internal crosslinker.

7. (Currently amended) A process for preparing crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers which comprises polymerizing an aqueous mixture comprising a hydrophilic monomer, optionally at least one further monoethylenically unsaturated compound, as at least one (meth)acrylic ester of a monoalkoxylated polyol of general formula (I) of claim 1, at least one free-radical initiator, optionally at least one grafting base, and optionally the hydrogel-forming polymer obtained being postcrosslinked, dried, and brought to a desired particle size.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 6.

10. (Previously presented) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 2 wherein the polyol is glycerol.

11. (Previously presented) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 3 wherein the polyol is glycerol.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 2 as an internal crosslinker.

15. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 3 as an internal crosslinker.

16. (Previously presented) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 4 as an internal crosslinker.

17. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 14.

18. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 15.

19. (Previously presented) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 16.